

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATE: July 11, 1955

PARTICIPANTS: Assistant Secretary George V. Allen
Mr. Harry F. Kern, Newsweek International Senior Editor
Mr. Rupert Prohme, NEA/P

COPIES TO: (cc) (cc)
NE - NEA - NEA/P (cc)
Cairo, Jidda
(cc) (cc)

REVIEWED BY ATC DATE 4/14/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Mr. Harry F. Kern, Senior International Editor of Newsweek magazine called on Mr. Allen today, to report on his recent interviews with King Saud of Saudi Arabia at Taif and with Premier Nasser of Egypt at Cairo.

His remarks may be summarized as follows:

1. Kern's June 14 Interview with King Saud: The interview was held at the King's request. Kern was flown to Taif in a Saudi Arabian Airforce plane. An armed bodyguard was present throughout the audience, which was extremely cordial.

Highpoints were:

- (1) King Saud now believes Communism to be his major enemy;
- (2) The King showed every evidence of being in a friendly mood toward the United States; and
- (3) The King was shaken by the implications of the recent army revolt, about which Kern could learn no details.

The arrest and deportation of some 150 Palestinian Arab, Lebanese and Syrian employees of Aramco Oil Company was based on the King's belief that these employees were all communists, Kern said. The arrests were made between 12 and 3 in the morning. Those arrested were maltreated a bit and after 2 or 3 days air-shuttled to Beirut. Aramco admits that some, but not all of the employees were communists. Others were members of the PPS Party in Syria. Kern felt that Palestinian Arabs were not desirable employees, as they were a discontented, trouble-making lot.

CONFIDENTIAL.

786A.117-155

USA / 10-11-68

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

The King was awakened to the communist threat to his regime and way of life by the capture of communist documents and tracts written by Saudis now in Damascus. He was further disturbed by the fact that the tracts were written by members of his own tribe.

In his conversation the King did not, as he had previously, express opposition to the Turk-Iraq pact. His only mention of Iraq was to praise their announced intention to join the Egyptians in the event of armed conflict with Israel. He said he too, had offered the Egyptians Saudi Arabia's support in case of such a conflict.

However, in other matters it is clear the King is determined Egypt will not interfere further in Saudi Arabian affairs. There were some 40 Egyptian officer advisers at Taif, scene of the army revolt, and there was clear intimation that Egyptian intrigue was involved in the uprising. The Saudis are now developing a new case of xenophobia and the feeling they can't trust anyone, Kern concluded.

[REDACTED] b(1)
[REDACTED] (D)

Kern also pointed out that King Saud was very upset with the Time magazine story which said, among other things, that although King Ibn Saud was a lion, King Saud was far from one. Telling Kern he has banned Time forever from Saudi Arabia, the King asked what else he could do. Kern suggested he might set up an information office in New York to disseminate more accurate news about his country. The King accepted this suggestion, and Kern offered his advice and assistance in establishing such an office. (Kern said he had helped the Japanese to establish a similar office in this country.)

Kern said he met Faisal during the audience with the King but had had no occasion to talk with him. Kern understood that Faisal was very antagonistic toward the United States. Mr. Allen explained some of the background for that belief.

On the other hand, however, Kern said the King had told him to tell President Eisenhower and anyone else in a position of authority in the United States that Saudi Arabia was a true friend of the United States and that both countries recognized that communism was their real enemy. This attitude, Kern noted, was in marked contrast to that shown in February of this year.

[REDACTED] 100-100000-1

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL

11/22/2011

8

8

NEA/P:RProhme:ld

CONFIDENTIAL